

DEPARTMENT OF ANESTHESIOLOGY

VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER

Standard Operating Procedure Title: IV Flow Rate Policy

Policy Number: C 15

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Non-flowing intravenous access can result in residual medication in an intravenous line which poses a potential patient safety issue. Patient safety is at immediate risk due to an initial medication under-dosing and a delayed risk exists when the residual medication is flushed from the intravenous line to the patient at an unexpected time. To reduce these risks, the following procedures should be followed:

1. All medications should be administered with adequate fluid to ensure medication entry to the bloodstream and eliminate residual medication in the intravenous line or extension tubing.
2. All intravenous lines with a direct fluid path to a patient shall be kept running at a minimum of KVO at all times or for pediatric patients connected to an infusion pump with age appropriate rate
3. Intravenous lines for which a zero flow state is desired shall be disconnected from intravenous fluids and heparin-locked without stopcock or other injection port access if possible.